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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/824,378

04/15/2004

Noam Goldberg

GOLDBERG3

6625

1444 7590 09/11/2008  
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EXAMINER

PHAN, MAN U

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2619

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/11/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/824,378

Examiner

Man Phan

Applicant(s)

GOLDBERG ET AL.

Art Unit

2619

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 12/12/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-8, 12-14, 16-21, 24-25 (Claims are renumbered as 1-18 respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

/Man Phan/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2619

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*Allowable Subject Matter*

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed December 12, 2007 in the application of Goldberg et al. for the "Technology for improving STP protocols in Ethernet networks supporting VLANs" filed 04/15/2004. This application claims foreign priority based on the application 155449 filed May 15, 2003 in Israel. The proposed amendment and response has been entered and made of record. Claims 2, 10-11, 15, 23 have been canceled per Applicant's request, and claims 1, 5-6, 9, 12-14, 22, 24-25 have been amended. The claims have been amended to better point out and more distinctly claim subject matter comprising the invention.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ronni S. Jillions (Reg. #31,979) on Sept. 08, 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- I. Claim 18: line 1, replace "The method according to Claim 15" with --The method according to Claim 14--
- II. Claim 9: Cancel.
- III. Claim 22: Cancel.

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4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Claims 1, 3-8, 12-14, 16-21, 24-25 are allowed as evident by applicant's amendment (Claims are renumbered as 1-18 respectively).

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest wherein comprising the following steps to be performed at each Ethernet switching node that is active in the new STP topology and with respect to each of said one or more VLANs: a) ensuring that ports of the Ethernet switching node that is active in the new STP topology, are assigned to said one or more VLANs according to an initial VLANs configuration; b) counting forwarding ports assigned to a particular VLAN, being active according to the new STP topology; c) if a port assigned to a particular VLAN is a single forwarding port for said particular VLAN at said node, de-activating said port with respect to said VLAN, thereby pruning said VLAN at said port and said node; d) generating a de-activation message from each said single forwarding port of said node, the message indicating one or more VLANs de-activated at said port, and transmitting said de-activation message to a neighbor Ethernet switching node in the new STP topology; e) de-activating the port of the neighbor Ethernet switch, that has received said de-activation message, with respect to said one or more

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VLANs indicated in the message; f) repeating steps (b) to (e) at said neighbor node, as specifically recited in the claims.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Man U. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3149. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 1-866-217-9197.

MPhan

09/08/2008

/Man Phan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2619

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|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Application Number</b><br> | <b>Application/Control No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination</b> |  |
|  | 10/824,378                     | GOLDBERG ET AL.                                |  |
|  | <b>Examiner</b>                | <b>Art Unit</b>                                |  |
|  | Man Phan                       | 2619   |  |